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Application No. 09/321,633

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14: (Cancelled)

15. (previously amended): A pipette gun and holster apparatus having a remote source of positive and negative air pressure, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a pipette gun having an external, flexible conduit connecting said gun to said remote air pressure source, said gun including:
 - i) a housing having a hand grip portion and a barrel portion oriented transverse to said hand grip portion;
 - ii) a pipette connector fixed to and oriented transverse to said barrel portion;
 - iii) an internal conduit connected to said external flexible conduit and said pipette connector;
 - iv) a valve intermediate said internal conduit which selectively regulates the flow of either positive air pressure or negative air pressure through said internal conduit to said pipette connector;
 - v) a positive air flow trigger and a negative air flow trigger connected to said valve;
- b) a gun holster which supports said gun above a work table with said pipette

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connector oriented downwardly, said holster including:

- i) a base;
- ii) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- iii) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a fork having a base end and a plurality of prongs, and a socket formed in between said prongs, said socket having an open top, an open bottom, and diameter which is larger than the distance between said prongs,

said socket removably holding said gun with said pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through said prongs and inserting said pipette connector into said socket through the top,

including a first switch proximate said socket, said switch regulating said remote air source.

16. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 15, said first switch deactivating said remote air source when said gun is parked in said holster, and said first switch energizing said remote air source when said gun is removed from said holster.

17. (original): The apparatus recited in claim 16, including a second switch which deactivates said remote air source independent of said first switch.

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Claims 18-22 (cancelled)

23. (previously amended): A holster for supporting a pipette gun on a vertical surface above or proximate a table top, said pipette gun having a negative and positive air pressure source, pipette connector and a pipette attached to said connector, said holster comprising:

- a) a base;
- b) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- c) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a fork having a base end and a plurality of prongs, and a socket formed in between said prongs, said socket having an open top, an open bottom, and diameter which is larger than the distance between said prongs, said socket removably holding the gun with the pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through said prongs and inserting the pipette connector into said socket through the top, including a first switch proximate said socket, said first switch deactivating said air source when the pipette gun is parked in said holster and energizing said air source when the pipette gun is removed from said holster.

24. (previously amended): The holster recited in claim 23, said mounting bracket comprising a pair of forks having a base end and a plurality of prongs, the base end of said forks being fixed to said holster base at vertically-spaced locations, said socket being

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circular and being formed in between the base end of at least one of said forks and the end of the prongs of said at least one fork.

25. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 24, said socket having a diameter DS larger than the distance DP between the prongs of said at least one fork, a diameter DS greater than the maximum outer diameter DC of the pipette connector, and a distance DP less than DC.

26. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 24, wherein the diameter DS1 of the socket and the distance DP1 between the prongs of the first fork is greater than the diameter DS2 of the socket and the distance DP2 between the prongs of the second fork, respectively.

27. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 26 for use with a pipette gun having a frusto-conical shaped pipette connector, a maximum outer diameter DC1, and a minimum outer diameter DC2, DC1 being greater than DP1, DP2 and DS2 but less than DS1, DC2 being less than DS1, DP1 and DS2.

Claims 28-29 (canceled)

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30. (currently amended): A method of metering fluid using a pipette gun, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a pipette gun having a remote air pressure source and holster assembly, said holster having a base, means for fastening said base to a vertical surface, a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket including a fork having a base end and a plurality of prongs, and a socket formed in between said prongs, said socket having an open top, an open bottom, and diameter which is larger than the distance between said prongs,

said socket removably holding said gun with said pipette connector oriented downwardly by passing the pipette through the prongs and inserting said pipette connector into said socket through the top so that said pipette connector engages said socket;

b) removably fastening said holster to a vertical surface next to or proximate a horizontal work table top;

c) parking the pipette gun in the holster above the work table with said pipette connector and pipette oriented downwardly out of contact with the table top;

d) removing said pipette gun from said holster and metering fluid with said gun, and,

~~The method recited in claim 29, including the step of:~~

e) automatically inactivating said external air pressure source when said pipette gun is parked in said holster and automatically activating said external air

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pressure source when said pipette gun is removed from said holster.

Claims 31-34 (canceled)

35. (previously amended): A pipette gun and holster apparatus having a remote source of positive and negative air pressure, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a pipette gun having an external, flexible conduit connecting said gun to said remote air pressure source, said gun including:
 - i) a housing having a hand grip portion and a barrel portion oriented transverse to said hand grip portion;
 - ii) a pipette connector fixed to and oriented transverse to said barrel portion;
 - iii) an internal conduit connected to said external flexible conduit and said pipette connector;
 - iv) a valve intermediate said internal conduit which selectively regulates the flow of either positive air pressure or negative air pressure through said internal conduit to said pipette connector;
 - v) a positive air flow trigger and a negative air flow trigger connected to said valve;
- b) a gun holster which supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented downwardly, said holster including:

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- i) a base;
- ii) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- iii) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket having a bottomless socket which removably holds said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket, including a first switch proximate said socket, said switch regulating the flow of power to said remote air source.

36. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 35, said first switch deactivating said remote air source when said pipette gun is parked in said holster, and said first switch energizing said remote air source when said pipette gun is removed from said holster.

37. (previously added): The apparatus recited in claim 35, including a second switch which deactivates said remote air source independent of said first switch.

38. (previously amended): A holster for supporting a pipette gun on a vertical surface above or proximate a table top, said pipette gun having a negative and positive air pressure source, pipette connector and a pipette attached to said connector, said holster comprising:

- a) a base;

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- b) means for fastening said base to a vertical wall;
- c) a mounting bracket fixed to and extending transverse to said base, said bracket having a bottomless socket which removably holds said gun by inserting said pipette connector into said socket, wherein said holster supports said gun above a work table with said pipette connector oriented downwardly, including a first switch proximate said socket, said first switch deactivating said air source when the pipette gun is parked in said holster and energizing said air source when the pipette gun is removed from said holster.

39. (previously added): The holster recited in claim 38, said mounting bracket comprising a pair of forks having a base end and a plurality of prongs, the base end of said forks being fixed to said holster base at vertically-spaced locations, said socket being circular and being formed in between the prongs of each of said forks.

40. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 39, said socket having a diameter DS larger than the distance DP between the prongs of said forks, a diameter DS greater than the maximum outer diameter DC of the pipette connector, and a distance DP less than DC.

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41. (previously added): The apparatus recited in claim 39, wherein the diameter DS1 of the socket and the distance DP1 between the prongs of the first fork is greater than the diameter DS2 of the socket and the distance DP2 between the prongs of the second fork, respectively.

42. (previously amended): The apparatus recited in claim 41 for use with a pipette gun having a frusto-conical shaped pipette connector, a maximum outer diameter DC1, and a minimum outer diameter DC2, DC1 being greater than DP1, DP2 and DS2 but less than DS1, DC2 being less than DS1, DP1 and DS2.

Claim 43 (canceled)